

REMARKS

[1-4] Claims 1-11 were rejected under § 112, first and second paragraphs, as being non-enabling and indefinite. The claims are amended in view of the Examiner's remarks to overcome the rejection.

[5-6] Claims 1-11 were rejected under § 102 as being anticipated by Honda '895. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

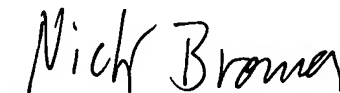
The amended claims recites two novel features: the air pressure protection bearing (e.g. 2), and the piezoelectric actuator (e.g. 41). These features produce two distinct advantages over the prior art: (1) when the spindle 16 is subjected to a lateral cutting force it is protected by the air pressure protection bearing 2; and (2) the plurality of piezoelectric actuators 41 can be in the same concentric geometrical position with the displacement meter (recited in claim 7).

Honda '895 corresponds to instant Fig. 2 and is discussed in the specification starting at page 2, line 3, which points up the differences between that reference and the instant claims.

As discussed by the Applicants, the problem with Honda is the same as the problem of the Applicants' prior-art of Fig. 1, namely, that the forces of grinding exert lateral forces on the sensor 31a and the sensor 31a is far from the wafer, so there is inaccuracy.

Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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